



How to ensure nutrition security in the global economic crisis to protect and enhance development of young children and our common future

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Abstract:

The global economic crisis, commodity price hikes, and climate change have worsened the position of the poorest and most vulnerable people. These crises are compromising the diet and health of up to 80% of the population in most developing countries and threaten the development of almost an entire generation of children (approximately 250 million), because the period from conception until 24 mo of age irreversibly shapes people's health and intellectual ability. High food prices reduce diversity and nutritional quality of the diet and for many also reduce food quantity. Poor households are hit hardest, because they already spend 50-80% of expenditures on food, little on medicines, education, transport, or cooking fuel, and cannot afford to pay more. Reduced public spending, declining incomes, increased food and fuel prices, and reduced remittance thus impede and reverse progress made toward Millenium Development Goals 1, 4, and 5. Investments in nutrition are among the most cost-effective development interventions because of very high benefit:cost ratios, for individuals and for sustainable growth of countries, because they protect health, prevent disability, boost economic productivity, and save lives. To bridge the gap between nutrient requirements, particularly for groups with high needs, and the realistic dietary intake under the prevailing circumstances, the use of complementary food supplements to increase a meal's nutrient content is recommended. This can be in the form of, e.g., micronutrient powder or low-dose lipid-based nutrient supplements, which can be provided for free, in return for vouchers, at subsidized, or at commercial prices.

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Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Food/Water Security

Food/Water Security: Food Access/Distribution, Nutritional Quality

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Developmental Effect, Diabetes/Obesity, Morbidity/Mortality

Cardiovascular Effect: Other Cardiovascular Effect

Cardiovascular Disease (other): Hypertension; congenital heart defect

Developmental Effect: Reproductive, Other Functional Deficit

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified